

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1 1. (Amended) A process for removing metals from an aqueous solution comprising the
2 steps of:
3 contacting said aqueous solution with at least one lithic neutralizing agent and
4 at least one lithic precipitating agent that preferentially precipitates metals from the
5 aqueous solution.

- 1 3. (Amended) A process for removing metals from an aqueous solution comprising the
2 steps of:
3 contacting said aqueous solution with at least one lithic neutralizing agent and
4 at least one lithic precipitating agent that preferentially precipitates metals from the
5 aqueous solution, wherein the at least one precipitating agent is selected from the
6 group consisting of sandstone, quartz, siltstone, quartzarenite, arkose, shale, feldspar,
7 illite, gravel, granite, basalt, conglomerate, schist, slate, gneiss, diorite, gabbro, and
8 rhyolite.

- 1 6. (Amended) A process for removing metals from an aqueous solution comprising the
2 steps of:
3 adding at least one neutralizing agent and at least one precipitating agent to a
4 natural stream of water, wherein the at least one neutralizing agent and at least one
5 precipitating agent are added as large blocks so that the water passes over and around
6 the blocks.

- 1 7. (Amended) The process of claim 5, wherein the at least one neutralizing agent and
2 at least one precipitating agent are added in gravel form.

1 9. (Amended) The process of claim 8, wherein the at least one neutralizing agent and
2 the at least one precipitating agent are provided in the pipe as a mixture of pieces of
3 the at least one neutralizing agent and the at least one precipitating agent.

97 1 10. (Amended) The process of claim 8, wherein the at least one neutralizing agent and
2 the at least one precipitating agent are provided in the pipe as alternating rings.

1 11. (Amended) The process of claim 8, wherein said step of contacting an aqueous
2 solution includes utilizing a pump to urge the aqueous solution through the pipe.